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THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
ENGINEER,
SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1937.

GEORGE FORDEN, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

R. W. HERRING, SURVEYOR, WATER ENGINEER
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
STREET,
May, 1938.

STREET, SOMERSET:
E. C. HELLIKER AND SONS LTD., PRINTERS, HIGH STREET.

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STREET, Somerset,

May, 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to submit to you our Annual Report for 1937.

Health Officers :

GEORGE FORDEN, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

R. W. HERRING, SURVEYOR, WATER ENGINEER

AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

AREA—The Area of the Urban District of Street is 3,112 acres.

POPULATION—1934, corrected Census estimation	...	4,409
1935, " " "	...	4,454
1936, " " "	...	4,532
1937, " " "	...	4,531

RATEABLE VALUE—£22,875. Product of 1d. Rate is £89.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS—OCCUPATIONS—Boot and Shoe Making, Tanning, the manufacture of Leather Board, Lime Stone Quarrying and Agriculture.

GEOLOGY—The strata consists of lower lias, alternate beds of limestone, clay and marl.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES—

1921—1025; 1934—1270; 1935—1338: 1936—1350;
1937—1386.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED IN 1937.

(a) By Private Persons	...	...	36
(b) By State Assistance	...	...	Nil
(c) By Local Authority	...	...	Nil

NUMBER OF FAMILIES—

No precise number can be given there still being an appreciable number of families in lodgings.

Vital Statistics.**Live Births.**

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Birth Rate
1936				9.45 per 1,000 living
Legitimate	43	26	17	
1937				11.01 ditto
Legitimate	50	26	24	

Still Births.

1936	1	—	—	
Death Rate per 1,000 registered Births				23.25
1937	3	—	3	
Death Rate per 1,000 registered Births				60

Deaths.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Death Rate per 1,000 living
1936	49	22	27	10.80
1937	51	24	27	11.45

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 registered births

1936	2 Males, Legitimate	...	...	40.50
1937	" " "	"	...	40.0

Deaths from Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia 1936 & 1937—Nil.

Causes of Deaths in 1937.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cancer ...	5	1	6
Respiratory T.B. ...	1	0	1
Other T.B. ...	1	0	1
Influenza ...	1	2	3
Peptic Fever ...	1	0	1
Pneumonia ...	2	0	2
Circulatory Dis ...	0	1	1
Heart Disease ...	5	13	18
Senility ...	1	4	5
Premature Birth ...	1	0	1
Nephritis ...	2	3	5
Digestive Disease ...	0	1	1
Other defined Diseases	4	2	6
	24	27	51

Age Table of Deaths.

		1935.	1936.	1937.
Under 1 year	...	3	2	2
1 year and under 2 years		1	1	0
2 years	" 5 "	0	0	0
5 "	" 15 "	1	1	1
15 "	" 25 "	0	1	1
25 "	" 45 "	1	3	3
45 "	" 65 "	14	12	13
65 and above	...	30	29	31
		—	—	—
		50	49	51

Cancer.

The following cases occurred during 1936 :—

	1936		1937
Cancer of Stomach at 61 years		Stomach at 45 years	
63 "		Intestine at 65 "	
69 "		Rectum at 76 "	
75 "		Breast at 62 "	
81 "		Kidney at 57 "	
Lungs at 49 "		Pancreas at 66 "	
Ovary at 62 "			

Cancer cases are sent to the Royal Infirmary and General Hospital, in Bristol, for X-ray and Radium Treatment or operation

Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Disease.	Total Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	2	2	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Para-tyhoid)	"	"	"
Puerperal Fever	"	"	"
Puerperal Pyrexia	"	"	"
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	"	"	"
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	"	"	"
Dysentery	"	"	"
Malaria	1	"	"
Pneumonia	10	"	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica	"	"	"

Chicken Pox and Measles are not notifiable locally.

Prevention of Blindness.

Persons suffering from Eye Disease are sent to the Eye Hospital, Bristol.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, a special nurse is obtained for treatment at home ; or sent to the Children's Hospital, Bristol.

Elementary Schools.

The Water Supply from the mains and Sanitary conditions are satisfactory.

	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1936	Nil		0	2	4	0	Nil	
1937	4		2		Nil		2	

All new cases of Tuberculosis are notified to the County Medical Officer of Health, and are visited by the Health Visitors. The majority are examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and when suitable are sent to Sanatoria.

SANATORIA IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET :

County Sanatorium, Quantock Lodge, 60 beds for men and women.

County Sanatorium for Children, Compton Bishop, 29 beds.

Taunton Tuberculosis Hospital, 20 beds for advanced cases.

County Sanatorium at Wincanton.

Surgical Tuberculosis in Children is dealt with at the Glastonbury Orthopædic Clinic through the County Orthopædic Scheme, and 20 beds at the Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

There is no provision for Surgical Tuberculosis in Adults ; they are sent to the Bristol Hospitals.

Laboratory Facilities.

At the County Health Laboratory at Taunton, for examination of Diphtheria Swabs, Sputum for Tubercle Baccilus Blood (Widal test) for Tyhoid Fever, Milk for Bacterial content.

Ambulance.

There is an ambulance for the Joint areas of Glastonbury and Street.

Nursing in the Home.

A District Nursing Association appoints two Queen's Nurses for general nursing and maternity nursing inside and outside the area, and a special maternity nurse inside the area.

There is a Child's Clinic and an Ante Natal Clinic affiliated to the Nursing Association.

There is a Cottage Hospital at Butleigh (3 miles), to which the Urban District Council contribute £10 per annum. The Urban District is included in an Infectious Hospital Scheme, the hospital being at Shepton Mallet. An ambulance is kept at the hospital for conveyence of patients to the hospital.

Prevalance of Infectious Disease.

An epidemic of Influenza occurred during the early months of the year ; there were 3 deaths from this cause ; Mumps, Whooping Cough and Measles were also prevalent but no deaths occurred.

The principal feature of the Report is the low incidence of notifiable Infectious Disease, there being no Diphtheria or Typhoid and only ~~one~~^{Two} case of Scarlet Fever. ✕

Of Pulmonary Tuberculosis 4 cases were notified in 1937. 20 years ago the average number was 9 or 10 per year. On the other hand Bovine or milk borne Tuberculosis is always with us, we are never free from Tubercular Disease of Bones and Joints and internal glands in children.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories :

C. & J. Clark Ltd.	Avalon Leather Board Co.	C.W.S. Tannery
Bartlett, Norman	Roper & Co.	Phelps & Son
Helliker & Sons Ltd.		

Workshops :

Mid Som. Electric	Macmillan	Gillett	Boyce
Wall, W.	Candy	Palmer	Bevan
Frampton & Sons	Mundy, John	Clare & Son	Stapleton
Gas Co.	Lewis, J.	Lang, J.	Locke Chas.
Wakely	Blake	Heal, P.	Holland
Latcham	Allen	Wall, L.	Cox, Bros.
Clare, C. W.	Cox, S. J.	Pursey, D.	Bond, Chas.
Bond, H.	Elver	Smith, E.	Banks. C.
Monelle	White & Son	Green	Hillard

Bakers :

Packe	C.W.S.	Chubb	Flemington
Shepherd	Acreman	Marsh	Clark

Water Supply.

Throughout the year under review, analyses show that our water has retained a very high standard of purity. Consideration is however being given to a system of "Chlorination," in view of the "Typhoid Scare" created by outbreaks in other areas. Careful supervision, the cleansing of the low level reservoir, together with seasonal clearing of the collecting areas has been carried out.

The spring yields, and the necessity to put Spencer's to scour during boring and testing operations, obliged the use of Honeyhurst, and from July to October this water was pumped to supply.

Inadequate pressures in the Low Level System have been overcome by the laying of an 8 inch main from the reservoir to

the junctions of Vestry Road and the High Street. A further leg-out on the High Level System is to be carried out, forming another completed circuit in the Overleigh and Brooks mains.

A Private Well Supply has been condemned and a service is now afforded from the Higher Level System.

Sewage Disposal.

The settling and storm tanks have been desludged at intervals and no complaints have been received in respect of the effluent entering the river.

Broad irrigation treatment of sewage has been systematically carried out and areas rested and treated at intervals.

30 new drainage systems have been inspected.

Post Mortems.

Post mortems were conducted on four occasions.

Housing.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

(1) With Local Authority—

With State Assistance—

a. Rehousing under Housing Act 1936	Nil.
b. Overcrowding	Nil.
c. Other	Nil.

Without State Assistance ... Nil.

(2) By other bodies or persons ... Nil.

(a) With State Assistance ... Nil.

(b.) Without State Assistance ... ~~22~~ 36

Housing Inspections :

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts) ... 60
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 99
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Cons. Regu., 1925 ... Nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... „
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ... Nil
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... 18

Housing Action :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. ... 18

Note—The above 60 houses include routine inspection of new properties for foundations, drainage and completion, also Council properties.

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—**A—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :**

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of former notices :
 - a. By owners
 - b. By Local Authority in default of owners

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice—
 - a. By owners ... Nil
 - b. By Local Authority in default of owners

C—Proceedings under the sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders
3. Clearance Orders made
4. Clearance Orders confirmed
 - (a) Number of Houses involved
 - (b) Number of Houses demolished

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :

- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of year ... Nil
2. Number of families dwelling therein ... Nil
3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... Nil
- (b) 1. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil

- (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... Nil
 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

Milk Supplies.

Number of Producers on the register	...	20
Number of Distributors on the register divided as follows:		
(a) Distributors only	... ..	4
(b) Distributors who are also producers		16

(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers.)

Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors	2
Voisey (Accredited) Slocombe (Pasteurised)	

Meat Supervision.

Slaughterhouses: Licenced	Nil
Registered	... .. 5
Total	5

No additional slaughterhouses have been licenced and the condition of the 5 (Registered) has been good. 197 inspections have been carried out, 885 carcasses seen, and the following meat condemned:—

272 lbs. Beef
 4 bovine livers and plucks
 1 whole pig's carcass
 3 pigs heads
 2 pigs livers
 5 sheeps livers.

We are, Gentlemen, your obedient servants,

GEORGE FORDEN, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

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